

It also fully reimburses the National Guard for their costs in deploying to the Capitol, which was essential to securing the Capitol following the attack.

By the way, we all know we need to recruit more officers, and I believe the stability of having a police Chief in place, particularly one from this region, and also having the funding and the benefits and the things we need will be helpful in our major effort that must be done to recruit more Capitol Police. People have been working too many shifts; they have been working too late; and they have been away from their families for too long.

While this proposal will deliver needed funding for these urgent priorities, there are other priorities that we must not forget.

First, it remains imperative that the criminal insurrectionists who overtook the Capitol on January 6 are held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. The Justice Department has done incredible work to see that justice is done following the horrific events of that day, with more than 500 people now facing criminal charges. That is, by the way, very important that we fund that. That is something we may have to take up in the future as some of these cases may be very complex.

Secondly, at the same time, the insurrection also made clear—and we all know this—the need to improve the security of the Capitol Complex itself. This includes funds requested to upgrade the windows and doors that were destroyed by the violent mob that day and for new security measures. As we move forward, while I appreciate the funding in this bill, there may be need for additional funding.

We heard again yesterday about the horrific events of January 6 during that hearing. We heard that harrowing testimony, once again, from brave officers who performed heroically under unimaginable circumstances. We all know the stories of staff hiding in closets. We all have seen the videos of how close it was for so many Members. We owe it to those who are with us today, for those we have lost, and for those whom we want to hire in the future to keep us safe. We owe it to them to pass this legislation to fund the Capitol Police and National Guard, but we also will owe it to them in the future to fund these ongoing prosecutions and other security improvements.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to ensure that we pass this bill and also that the critical funding needs are met as we move forward, for nothing is more important to this place than our democracy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my remarks may conclude shortly after 1:10 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I have good news for the people of Louisiana and good news for the American people: We have an agreement on an infrastructure package.

Now, OK, an “infrastructure package”; what does that mean? Let’s just talk.

There will be \$110 billion for roads and bridges nationwide—\$40 billion for bridges. By the way, Louisiana has the third most bridges in poor condition. So, if you are stuck right now in traffic trying to get over the Sabine River or the Calcasieu River or the Mississippi River or any of our other rivers which have bridges in poor condition, there is relief for you. There is \$47 billion for resiliency.

Now, my State is flooded more than other States, but every State, it seems, has had an issue with flooding. There is \$47 billion; a significant portion of it is for flooding issues, for coastal restoration, and other things regarding resiliency.

There is permitting reform. Right now, we know it can take 6 to 10 years for a bridge project—an Army Corps of Engineers project—to be permitted. Sometimes it takes so long to permit that the facts on the ground have actually changed, and the permit almost is inaccurate. In building upon pilot projects which have shown that permitting can be shortened from 6 years to 2 years, this infrastructure package has that permitting reform. There will be less money for bureaucrats and attorneys, and there will be more money for construction—what a major advance.

By the way, some people have confused this bill with the \$3.5 trillion Democratic tax-and-spend extravaganza. They are two different bills. This bill is for roads and bridges and broadband and resiliency and flood control and coastal restoration. The other is for who knows what.

This bill, the infrastructure bill, has been judged by economists as to not contribute to inflation. The \$3.5 trillion bill, obviously, is going to make the inflation we have now worse. The bill we have does not raise taxes. The \$3.5 trillion bill is estimated to raise hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes.

One bill I love; the other bill I hate. The infrastructure bill that is going to shorten someone’s commute time across a bridge, to make their home less likely to flood, to extend broadband to areas of our country which are not served at all or are poorly served is the bill I love, and I think that it is the bill that the American people desperately need.

Let me conclude by saying, again, if you are stuck in bridge traffic in my State or in any other State right now, wondering why this bridge in poor condition can’t get fixed, help is on its way. If you are in a place in our country, but particularly in my State, which has either flooded or is at risk of flooding or if you live near a coastline,

and that beachfront, which 30 years ago when you bought that home was hundreds of feet out and now waves are lapping up on the road in front of your house and coastal erosion has endangered your property and your life savings, help is on its way. If you have seen an initiative to build a bridge but have been so frustrated that it has taken so long to get the permits, that is about to change. This is legislation—bipartisan, paid for—that will address all of those issues.

I conclude the way I started.

We have good news. There is a bipartisan infrastructure bill that begins to address the needs of the American people—to create jobs, to take away frustrations, and to provide more security—that all Americans should support.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 1:55 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:12 p.m., recessed until 1:55 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

DEBT CEILING

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, we have all experienced a bit of buyer’s remorse this past year. The uncertainty caused by the pandemic had folks stockpiling too much or just doing a little online retail therapy for things they may never use. But when it comes to impulse buying, no one can compete with Democrats in Washington. If running up the taxpayers’ tab was an Olympic sport, Democrats would easily take home the gold.

Over the past 6 months, the Democrats have run up trillions of dollars in new spending. And as we are just days away from hitting the Nation’s debt limit, these same Democrats are preparing to charge trillions more to the Nation’s credit card, paid for by taxpayers, of course, to purchase more of their pricey, partisan pet projects and other items on their progressive wish list.

Their reckless spending spree started in March with their strictly partisan \$2.1 trillion, a so-called COVID bill. The Democrats assured us the \$1,400 stimulus checks and \$300-a-week enhanced unemployment benefits included in the bill would get America back on its feet. Well, folks, this July 28, we have 10 million unfilled jobs. Last week, jobless claims increased. And hard-working Americans are feeling the pinch and paying more for almost everything, from gas to groceries. The Democrats’ poisonous progressive policies are failing us, and Iowans and the rest of Americans know it. Yet